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SCALE HOW,
AMBLESIDE,
MAY 4th, 1912.

My dear

Mayorie

It is rather sad that I can only speak to you by letter at our Winchester rejoicing, but I think of you constantly; and Mrs. Franklin and Miss Parish and the other friends who have helped us have arranged everything so delightfully that I shall be able to follow you hour by hour; Miss Kitching, too, will try to carry everybody's portrait in her mind's eye and she is rather good at giving one an idea of people; indeed, I shall have three reports from eye witnesses when the Winchester week is over.

I have been wondering which you will enjoy most, placing all the old-time people you have read of in the old City and Cathedral, seeing the things you know about, finding out and hearing of many new and interesting things, or seeing your schoolfellows in the Parents' Union School: I think the last will be the most perfectly delightful; it must be very nice to meet other boys and girls who are "friends" with Gilbert White, who love and blame Sir Launcelot, who have followed that patriot King, Alfred the Great, meaning to do something for our England themselves; some of you have even read the King's words in the "Cura Pastoralis" and in "Boethius." Some readers, I hear, think "The Warden" a man of fine courage, and everyone, I know, has found in Sir Galahad the hero after his own heart, and longs for that Vision which is for us also.

You will like to talk over that great lover of boys, William of Wykeham, and to wonder whether Miss Austen really meant that the friendship between "Emma" and "Miss Smith" was a nice friendship, or whether she tells of it in her half laughing way as a friendship not to be imitated. How nice, too, to discuss your favourite "Botticelli" and say why you like it better than someone else's choice! Then, there are the difficulties of modelling true arches, perpendicular pillars; and difficulties in preparing the costumes (about which Mrs. and Miss Parsons have been so good to us). In fact there are endless things to discuss. But, supposing, which is very likely, that you do not say a word about any of them you will be sure all the same that the others have taken as much delight as you have in the term's work.

That is one of the happy things about the Winchester gathering—you will always be sure afterwards that many schoolfellows are delighting in the books that you love, and in the nature studies, drawings, and other things that interest you.

It is a delightful thing about this School of yours that the Scholars love their books; I know, because every post brings me a letter from some one to say so, and, besides, I can tell by the way you answer your examination questions. When all the papers reach me I often say, "this is a very happy week for me"; I am happy because your papers show me that you have had a delightful term's work and that you LOVE KNOWLEDGE.

I think that is a joyful thing to be said about anybody, that he loves knowledge; there are so many interesting and wonderful things to be known that the person who loves knowledge cannot very well be dull; indoors and out of doors there are a thousand interesting things to know and to know better.

There is a saying of King Alfred's that I like to apply to our School,—“I have found a door,” he says. That is just what I hope your School is to you—a door leading into a great palace of art and knowledge in which there are many chambers all opening into garden or field path, forest or hillside. One chamber, entered through a beautiful Gothic archway, is labelled BIBLE KNOWLEDGE, and there the Scholar finds goodness as well as knowledge, as indeed he does in many others of the fair chambers. You see that doorway with much curious lettering; History is within, and that is, I think, an especially delightful chamber. But it would take too long to investigate all these pleasant places, and, indeed, you could label a good many of the doorways from the headings on your term's programme.

But you will remember that the School is only a “Door” to let you in to the goodly House of Knowledge, and I hope you will go in and out and live there all your lives—in one pleasant chamber and another; for the really rich people are they who have the entry to this House Beautiful, and who never let King Alfred's “Door” rust on its hinges, no not all through their lives, even when they are very old people.

I have a great hope for all you dear Scholars of the P.U.S.; other people always know what we care about, and I hope the world will be a little the better because you love knowledge, and have learnt to think fair, just thoughts about things, and to seek first the Kingdom of Heaven in which is all that is beautiful, good and happy-making. I must not take up any more of the time in which there are so many things to be done, so, wishing you the very happiest week in all your happy lives,

I am, always your loving friend,

Charles Mann



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Audrey

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Charlotte M. Mann